

# WAR ON WAR

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PAPER

READ BY

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BEFORE THE

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MADAM PRESIDENT AND FELLOW-MEMBERS OF MASSACHUSETTS  
CLUBS:

I appreciate the privilege of saying a few words to you on this subject which must surely be constantly in the minds of every one of us now, — the question of War and Peace.

May I begin by quoting from a letter which came to me after the war began, from one of America's most honored citizens? — Bishop Brent of the Philippine Islands — who has been called America's greatest statesman in the East. He writes:

"All of us who have steadily been learning the meaning and value of peace according to the ideal given us by the Prince of Peace cannot fail to be wrung by anguish by the tempest of hatred, selfishness and slaughter which is sweeping over Europe. . . . There is little that can be done by us to terminate this awful war, but we must be busy in our preparation to meet the situation when, as I hope, . . . sheer exhaustion will have compelled Europe to quiet. The days are evil: Buy up the opportunity — that must be our attitude. . . .

"But it seems to me our first duty is to examine ourselves and see how and where we as individuals are contributing to a social and national condition that makes war not only possible but easy.

"I have never actually joined a peace movement, because I felt that the Church was, ideally at any rate, the great Peace Society. Now I feel that everyone should publish his belief in the horrible wickedness of this war and his adherence to the principle of peace, so I want you to enroll me as a member of Massachusetts Peace Society. . . . There is no man who, however humbly, counts himself a follower of Jesus Christ, can fail to be roused to new earnestness by the war. Some of us may be called to do something extreme. But whether by much or by little we must stand boldly forth without counting cost. . . .

“(Signed) C. H. BRENT.”

Indeed it is certainly the duty of each person to *do* something! Surely we stand at the parting of the ways. Either this war

will only lay up the seeds of future conflicts; or if every man and every woman works for Constructive Peace Ideals, this will be the last war which civilized nations will permit to be fought in their midst.

Everyone who has looked at this terrible war closely, has been brought to the realization of what all Peace workers — Internationalists — have been teaching for years: that while in past generations some wars had to be waged because there was no other acknowledged way of settling the disputes of nations, now in our day and generation there is no excuse for tolerating this outgrown method. War is now an unnecessary as well as a monstrous evil.

Most of the thinking people who stand for twentieth century ideals are passionately exclaiming that the world shall no longer allow this unjust and uncivilized method of settling the disputes of nations. If men in small groups (not dignified by the name of "nations"), attempt to decide their quarrels and misunderstandings by the methods of war, they are imprisoned and turned over to the jurisdiction of the law; and why should the larger groups be allowed to break all the ten commandments when they have misunderstandings to be settled?

The system of war is made by men, and can be overthrown by men; it is not like the forces of nature — earthquakes and tornadoes — which man has little or no power to resist.

The late Justice Brewer wrote: "There never was a time since the beginning of days, that woman longed for bloodshed and the carnage of war, and the more fully she realizes its waste and destruction the more earnest will become her opposition. Nowhere in the world is she so potent a force in public life as in this country, and you may be sure that that force will be ere long concentrated in steadfast opposition to war. She cannot be sneered or laughed out of her faith."

Miss Jane Addams felt that we American women must not stand by as onlookers merely at this tragedy across the seas. So she wrote to women representing many organizations in various parts of this country, and asked them to assemble in Washington to see what could be done. All who could, responded to the call, and after three days' conferences, a platform was agreed upon, and the Woman's Peace Party came into existence.

Mr. Hamilton Holt, Editor of the *Independent*, writes as follows in the January twenty-third number: "They (the Woman's Peace



Party) issued a manifesto, unsurpassed, we think, in power and moral fervor by anything that has been issued here or abroad since the great war began; and their Platform is radical, sound, statesmanlike and constructive."

Jane Addams is Chairman of the Party, with Chicago as the present headquarters. State branches are to be formed as soon as possible; and Massachusetts led as the first state to be organized.

The earnestness and enthusiasm have been overwhelming from the start, and it seems as if the Woman's Peace Party is going to prove the most aggressive of all the groups organized for the purpose of educating public opinion on this, the greatest question of our century.

Our Massachusetts Branch is not quite five weeks old, and we already count over six hundred members, with applications for membership every day. We have instituted public Conferences, led by experts, every Saturday morning,—from eleven to twelve o'clock, at Pilgrim Hall (14 Beacon Street, Boston). Meetings and Study Circles are being arranged for. There is work for everyone to do — and we *need* workers to help us in all sorts of ways.

There may be differences of opinion regarding some of the eleven planks of our Platform — but in the words of our Declaration of Principles, "we have given freedom of expression to a wide divergence of opinion in the details of our Platform . . . in a common desire to make our woman's protest against war and all that makes for war vocal, commanding and effective," and the whole object of the Woman's Peace Party is to push the Peace Work.

We want to have with us every woman who believes that the system of war must be abolished,—and we hope that this spreading of the Peace Movement will be undertaken by all women without any division of race, creed or partisanship.

I see the ideals and the demands of the Woman's Peace Party spreading into every city and village of this country,—and by the sanity and inspiration on which they are founded, compelling every woman to join this great woman's army for Peace.

Our work is not to stop in the United States; there must be and there will be a Woman's Peace Party in every corner of the civilized world.

When most of the individuals, who make up the nations, demand the abolition of the War System, the Cause will be won. Won't you join us and help in this compelling work?